



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
St. Paul District

# Information Paper

## Section 205, Flood Control Continuing Authority, Red River of the North: Wahpeton, N.D.



*Flood easements and maintaining ditches are a part of the Wahpeton Project.*

### Contact

Ed McNally, Project Manager  
(651) 290-5387 (651) 290-5258 fax  
[edward.l.mcnally@usace.army.mil](mailto:edward.l.mcnally@usace.army.mil)  
[cemvp-pm@usace.army.mil](mailto:cemvp-pm@usace.army.mil)

### Location/Description

Wahpeton, N.D., is located in Richland County in eastern North Dakota, approximately 55 miles south of Fargo, N.D. The Red River of the North and the Bois de Sioux River bound the city on the east. The confluence of the Ottertail River with the Red River of the North is located at Wahpeton. The city of Breckenridge, Minn., lies across the Red River of the North from Wahpeton and may be a factor in the evaluation.

The 1997 flood in the Red River basin generated a strong determination by all levels of government to identify quickly, evaluate and implement permanent flood reduction projects for existing urban communities along the Red River of the North. The communities include the city of Wahpeton and its sister city, Breckenridge.

### Authority

Section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act, as amended. Section 205 authorizes construction of small projects for flood control and related purposes not specifically authorized by Congress. Projects recommended for construction under Section 205 must be economically justified and limited to a federal cost of \$7 million.

### Status

Flooding in 1997 flood nearly devastated of the city of Wahpeton, N.D. Only heroic flood fighting kept the city from absorbing significant damages. As a result of the 1997 flood, there is strong public and interagency recognition that a permanent flood reduction project is needed for the city. A partnership was formed among the city, state and federal government that combined and leveraged funding and expertise. This partnership became official on June 18, 1999, when the parties signed a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement for conducting a feasibility study. This Feasibility Study was completed in September 2000, was submitted for approval in November 2000, and was approved by Corps Higher Authority in February 2001.

The Feasibility Study identified a feasible flood reduction plan that consists of a permanent levee system protecting most of the city, a flood easement to keep the breakout flood flows from being blocked in the future, and public recreation features. The cost for this plan is currently estimated at \$11 million with \$7 million being the maximum level of Federal participation. It is expected that a Project Cooperation Agreement for this project would be enacted in the fall of 2001 and that construction of the first stage of construction could be awarded in the spring of 2002.

### Additional

The timing of implementation of the Wahpeton project is dependent on the Breckenridge flood control project and could be delayed if the specifically authorized Breckenridge flood control project is not funded. Constructed alone. The Wahpeton project would induce damages on Breckenridge, Minn., which are unacceptable.

Pre-construction engineering design is underway. Plans and specifications for the first phase of construction are scheduled for completion in July 2002 with the start of construction beginning in October 2002. Construction could be initiated in fiscal 2002 with construction completing in fiscal 2003 or early 2004.

### Fiscal

Project design and construction costs are to be cost shared with the non-federal sponsor and the O&M costs are to be the responsibility of the non-Federal sponsor.

General Design	\$1,000,000
Construction	\$6,500,000
Non-Federal Contributions	\$3,500,000